already manufactures the drug Osejtamivir (Tamiflu). Indian companies who have started working on the drug are M/s Cipla, M/s Hetero Drugs and M/s Ranbaxy.

HIV/AIDS awareness through NRHM

1167. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to include the awareness programme to prevent HIV and AIDS in the National Rural Health Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the work done on HIV/AIDS was not enough to meet the challenge; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to converge the National AIDS Control Programme efforts with those of National Rural Health Mission by developing a joint communication strategy and utilizing the health infrastructure at the district level and below for spreading awareness on HIV/AIDS etc.

(c) and (d) Despite past efforts, there are several issues that require to be up scaled and implemented more intensively such as:

* Preventive interventions targeting high-risk groups by adopting a multi-pronged strategy which includes peer counseling, behaviour change communication, treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) condom distribution.

* Up scaling the preventive interventions among the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counseling and testing services, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT), Information Education and Communication (IEC).

* Raising awareness on preventive intervention particularly among the youth. School AIDS Education Programme (SAEP) is proposed to be extended to all the schools of secondary and senior secondary level. The youth involving NSS, NYKS, NSS scouts and guides are proposed to be mobilized and sensitized.

* Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in all the ministries /departments.